

disclose the names of the companies, since this may adversely affect the on-going investigation.

Outstanding Amount Against Big Industrial Houses

1722. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of major industrial houses of the country against which Government's amount is outstanding at present, with details of amount;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to recover this amount; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Government is not maintaining any list of industrial houses as the industrial houses are not required to get themselves registered, consequent upon the omission of Section 26 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act, 1969) by the MRTP (Amendment) Act, 1991 with effect from 27.9.1991. Therefore the "Industrial houses-wise" information regarding recovery of outstanding dues is also not maintained.

(b) and (c) Field formations have been directed to take necessary administrative and legal measures envisaged under the statutes to recover the outstanding amount. Concerned courts are also requested for early hearings and vacation of stay orders.

Sugar Export

1723. SHRI NARAYANATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Financial Express dated July 9, 1997 captioned "Government move to decanalise sugar exports fail";

(b) if so, the reaction and facts of the matter;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken for mid-course policy correction, if any; and

(d) the details of pragmatic plan of action proposed for promotion of export of sugar to improve financial performance of sugar units in the country for clearance of mounting sugarcane arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority issued a Trade Note on 25.04.1997 inviting applications for issue of Registration-Cum-Allocation Certificate (RCAC) for export of 1,55,658 Mts. of sugar. Till 29.07.1997, RCAC's for export of 1,29,155.50 Mts. of sugar have been issued. The exports of sugar depend upon a host

of factors such as international prices, expectations of buyers and sellers regarding future international prices, international demand and supply position, consumer preference and other terms and conditions of trade. The total quantity of sugar earmarked for exports is expected to be exported. With export earnings, the liquidity position of the sugar mills is likely to improve which would enable them to meet their financial obligations including clearance of sugarcane arrears.

Waiver of Obligations from World Trade Organisations

1724. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has turned down the suggestion of the industrialised nations to seek a waiver of obligations annually from the World Trade Organisation General Council;

(b) if so, whether the Indian stand was not acceptable to delegations from the US and the European Community;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the countries which supported India's stand; and

(e) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e) At the resumed consultations, on the plan presented by India for the phased elimination of quantitative restrictions on imports maintained under the provisions of Article XVIII:B of the GATT 1994, in the Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) with India held on 30 June- 1 July 1997, there was disagreement, inter alia, on the issue of disinvocation of Article XVIII:B by India. Some developed countries, in particular the European Communities and the United States of America, wanted India to announce that as the foreign exchange position had improved, India no longer has any justification for retaining the balance of payments cover. This was not agreed to by India as there would then be no legal cover for residual quantitative restrictions and India would be vulnerable to disputes in the residual period of the plan. The developed countries had proposed that India may seek, from the General Council, a waiver of obligations every year under the provisions of Article IX of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation. India's view was that there was a clear Provision in the Understanding of Balance of Payments provisions of GATT 1994 that in those cases in which a time schedule has been presented for the removal of restrictive measures taken for balance of payments purposes, the General Council may recommend that, in adhering to such a time-scheduled, a Member shall be deemed to be in compliance with its GATT 1994 obligation. This provision, in India's view provides comparable legal certainty to both India and its trading partners. Brazil, Peru and Pakistan supported the Indian stand on disinvocation. The consultations with India concluded without consensus.